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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/524,770

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Rob Myers

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05/07/2007

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EXAMINER

SALCE, JASON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/524,770	Applicant(s) MYERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Jason P. Salce	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 18-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-15, 30 and 33-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 18-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1-15, 20-21 and 33-35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 10/23/2006.

Applicant's election with traverse of the restriction in the reply filed on 10/23/2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that no serious burden is made because the claims have been previously examined. This is not found persuasive a previous examiner was examining the instant application, and that a restriction requirement should have been previously made. The current examiner notes that in order to reject both the system currently elected and the removable module that has been non-elected, two separate art areas must be searched and two separate rejections would be necessary.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16, 18-20, 23, 25 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,785) in view of Barton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,389).

Referring to claim 16, Hendricks discloses formatting a media signal with content data and with on-site media service data (see Column 7, Line 50 through Column 9, Line 19 for the headend receiving both content data (television programs) and on-site media service data (program control information signals)).

Hendricks also discloses broadcasting said media signal to an on-site media system having a dedicated tuning device (see Figure 1 and Column 9, Line 20 through Column 10, Line 62 for receiving the programming signals at a client device/on-site media system).

Hendricks also discloses that said on-site media service data allows an off-site content provider to remotely control a display of an advertisement on said on-site media system (see Column 6, Line 3 through Column 7, Line 48 for the operations center creating the on-site media service data, which allows the operations center to remotely control a display of an advertisement to the user's display device (further note Column 19, Line 28 through Column 20, Line 67)).

Hendricks fails to teach that said on-site media system has a dedicated portion of a hard disk for said media signal.

Barton discloses an on-site media system that further includes a hard drive to store media signals (see Column 3, Line 30 through Column 4, Line 13), further note that the media signals/movies are stored on various portions of the hard drive, therefore

Art Unit: 2623

the media signals are stored on a dedicated portion of the hard drive (the portion used to store a particular movie or movies). The examiner notes that the recitation "dedicated" is broad and the claims do not recite how said portion of the hard drive is "dedicated", therefore the examiner has interpreted a dedicated portion to simply be the portion which stores each particular movie. Even further, the examiner notes that a hard drive inherently contains a dedicated portion because every hard drive contains a table of addresses in a hidden portion of the hard drive (e.g. a FAT table), therefore the portion of the hard drive used to store data and not the hidden portion/address table can be considered the "dedicated" portion.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the on-site media system, as taught by Hendricks, using the hard disk, as taught by Barton for the purpose of providing a user the ability to simultaneously record and playback TV broadcast programs (see Column 1, Lines 54-55 of Payton).

Claim 18 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said on-site media service data has interactive options that are responsive to a viewer input on said on-site media system (see Figures 11a-11d).

Claim 19 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said on-site media system has a resident-software platform for interfacing information

Art Unit: 2623

between a content provider, a presentation engine, and a viewer (see Column 10, Lines 13-46).

Claim 20 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said medial signal is formatted with metadata on a fine-grain basis for intervals shorter than a broadcast program time span (see Column 20, Lines 16-18 for the metadata identifying advertisements for video programs).

Claim 23 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said on-site media services data includes management information for said on-site media system (see Table A at Column 20, Lines 32-46).

Claim 25 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said on-site service data includes presentation information (see the rejection of claim 23).

Claim 28 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said on-site media service data provides software updates (see Column 10, Lines 47-55).

Claim 29 corresponds to claim 16, where Hendricks further discloses that said on-site service data includes function information that enhances functionality of said on-site media system (see the rejection of claim 28).

Claims 21-22, 24 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,785) in view of Barton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,389) in further view of Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931).

Referring to claim 21, Hendricks and Barton disclose all of the limitations in claim 16, but fail to teach that said on-site media service data enables said on-site media system to record a portion of said media signal on said dedicated portion of said hard disk according to subscription information.

Alexander teaches that a user may subscribe to recording multiple episodes in a television series (see Column 11, Lines 8-16).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to modify the on-site media system/data, as taught by Hendricks and Barton, using the record regularly functionality in conjunction with the EPG data presented to the user, as taught by Alexander, for the purpose of providing improved viewer control of video recording of future-scheduled programming (see Column 2, Lines 6-7 of Alexander).

Referring to claim 22, see the rejection of claim 21.

Referring to claim 24, see the rejection of claim 21.

Referring to claim 26, see the rejection claim 21 and further note Figure 6.

Referring to claim 27, Hendricks and Barton disclose all of the limitations in claim 16, but fail to teach that said on-site media service data includes information for retrieving data from an Internet site.

Alexander teaches providing information for retrieving data from an Internet site (see Column 8, Lines 36-64).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to modify the on-site media system/data, as taught by Hendricks and Barton, using the Internet mode, as taught by Alexander, for the purpose of providing improved viewer interaction capabilities with the EPG (see Column 2, Line 5 of Alexander).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

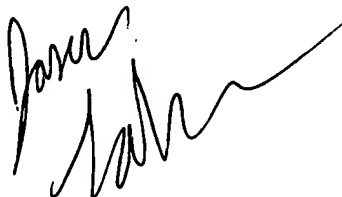
Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason P Salce
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623

April 30, 2007

JASON SALCE
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Salce', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.